



RESEARCH NOTE NC-38

NORTH CENTRAL FOREST EXPERIMENT STATION, FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Folwell Avenue, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101

FOREST AREA IN MICHIGAN COUNTIES, 1966

ABSTRACT.—In 1966, Michigan had 19.4 million acres of forest land. Almost half of the 18.9 million acres classified as commercial forest land was in Upper Michigan. Since 1955 commercial forest land has increased from 2.4 million to 2.8 million acres in Southern Lower Michigan, and decreased from 7.7 million to 7.0 million acres in Northern Lower Michigan.

The recently completed Third Forest Survey of Michigan shows that 19.4 million acres, or more than half of Michigan's 36.4 million acres, are forested (table 1). Forest land comprises nine-tenths of the total land area in the Upper Peninsula, three-fifths of the land area in the northern half of Lower Michigan, but only one-fifth the land area in the southern half (fig. 1, see p. 4).

About 18.9 million acres or 98 percent of the total forest area is useable for production of industrial timber and is therefore classified as commercial forest land. Almost half of it, 9 million acres, is in the Upper Peninsula. Of the 15 counties in that area, Marquette County alone has more than 1 million acres, and 12 other counties have at least 500,000 acres each. In Lower Michigan the northern

unit has 7 million acres and the southern unit 3 million acres of commercial forest land.

Although the total of commercial forest land has changed less than 2 percent between this survey and the one dated 1955, we can note some significant changes in certain sections of the state. In the 35 counties in Southern Lower Michigan, commercial forest land has increased from 2.4 million to 2.8 million acres. This increase reflects the idle cropland and pastureland that is returning to forest, widespread tree planting on open land, and the decreasing use of farm woodlots for pasture.

In the 33 counties in Northern Lower Michigan, commercial forest land decreased from the 7.7 million acres reported in 1955 to 7.0 million acres in 1966, a difference of about 10 percent. Comparisons of the two surveys show a large reduction of nonstocked forest land in these counties. About 500,000 of the nonstocked forest acreage reported in 1955 cannot be accounted for in the present seedling and sapling acreage; apparently most of this is now being used for nonforest purposes.

In the Upper Peninsula commercial forest land has remained about the same, with small increases showing up in the western part and small decreases in the eastern part.

Table 1.—Area of land and forest land, by counties, Michigan, 1966

Survey district & county	: All land ^{1/}	: All forest	: Forest Land ^{2/}	: Commercial forest
			: Non-commercial ^{3/}	: Commercial ^{4/}
	: as a percent of land area			
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres
				Percent
E. UP. PEN.:				
Alger	584.3	540.6	4.7	535.9
Chippewa	1,011.2	805.1	38.6	766.5
Delta	755.2	638.3	14.4	623.9
Luce	585.0	543.3	17.1	526.2
Mackinac	649.0	572.0	10.1	561.9
Menominee	660.5	527.5	14.2	513.3
Schoolcraft	767.4	654.5	13.1	641.4
Total	5,012.6	4,281.3	112.2	4,169.1
W. UP. PEN.:				
Baraga	578.6	543.3	8.2	535.1
Dickinson	484.5	454.0	6.3	447.7
Gogebic	711.7	666.4	22.3	644.1
Houghton	659.2	576.9	16.1	560.8
Iron	766.1	708.7	12.6	696.1
Keeweenaw	348.2	341.2	128.5	212.7
Marquette	1,178.2	1,108.6	11.5	1,097.1
Ontonagon	845.3	784.2	56.9	727.3
Total	5,571.8	5,183.3	262.4	4,920.9
NO. LOWER PEN.:				
Alcona	433.3	324.1	1.3	322.8
Alpena	363.5	212.2	1.8	210.4
Antrim	305.3	186.4	0.8	185.6
Arenac	235.5	106.4	1.0	105.4
Bay	285.4	48.3	0.6	47.7
Benzie	202.2	124.7	2.7	122.0
Charlevoix	265.0	162.6	0.9	161.7
Cheboygan	464.0	340.3	3.1	337.2
Clare	366.1	230.3	1.3	229.0
Crawford	360.3	313.6	10.0	303.6
Emmet	295.0	189.4	6.7	182.7
Gladwin	321.9	189.7	2.8	186.9
Grand Traverse	297.0	161.7	0.6	161.1
Iosco	350.1	243.9	1.7	242.2
Isabella	366.1	97.9	0.8	97.1
Kalkaska	361.0	271.1	0.4	270.7
Lake	366.1	297.1	0.2	296.9
Leelanau	223.4	114.2	1.0	113.2
Manistee	357.1	221.3	1.1	220.2
Mason	315.5	160.1	1.5	158.6
Mecosta	360.3	149.6	1.2	148.4
Midland	332.8	171.7	1.6	170.1
Missaukee	361.6	227.4	0.3	227.1
Montmorency	355.2	287.5	0.5	287.0
Newaygo	548.5	311.7	1.5	310.2
Oceana	343.0	152.3	2.1	150.2
Ogemaw	367.4	241.4	1.9	239.5
Osceola	371.8	176.1	1.4	174.7
Oscoda	361.6	302.3	1.0	301.3
Otsego	339.2	251.8	0.8	251.0
Presque Isle	418.5	290.8	1.6	289.2
Roscommon	333.4	271.9	2.0	269.9
Wexford	360.3	221.9	1.5	220.4
Total	11,387.4	7,051.7	57.7	6,994.0

Survey district & county	All land ^{1/}	All forest	Forest Land ^{2/}		Commercial forest as a percent of land area
			Non-commercial ^{3/}	Commercial ^{4/}	
	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Thousand acres	Percent
SO. LOWER PEN.:					
Allegan	530.6	150.7	0.6	150.1	28.3
Barry	351.4	94.4	0.8	93.6	26.6
Berrien	371.2	71.0	1.6	69.4	18.7
Branch	323.8	56.6	0.2	56.4	17.4
Calhoun	453.8	99.7	0.7	99.0	21.8
Cass	312.3	69.7	0.3	69.4	22.2
Clinton	365.4	45.0	-	45.0	12.3
Eaton	362.9	55.9	0.1	55.8	15.4
Genesee	411.5	56.2	0.2	56.0	13.6
Gratiot	362.2	49.4	-	49.4	13.6
Hillsdale	384.6	70.3	0.3	70.0	18.2
Huron	526.1	62.7	1.1	61.6	11.7
Ingham	357.8	58.6	0.3	58.3	16.3
Ionia	368.0	63.5	0.1	63.4	17.2
Jackson	451.2	96.2	0.5	95.7	21.2
Kalamazoo	362.9	79.9	1.4	78.5	21.6
Kent	551.7	129.3	0.6	128.7	23.3
Lapeer	420.5	83.8	3.8	80.0	19.0
Lenawee	482.5	64.8	0.9	63.9	13.2
Livingston	365.4	92.5	0.7	91.8	25.1
Macomb	307.8	46.5	1.5	45.0	14.6
Monroe	359.7	35.1	0.1	35.0	9.7
Montcalm	455.7	134.4	0.7	133.7	29.3
Muskegon	322.6	170.0	1.0	169.0	52.4
Oakland	561.3	154.6	17.4	137.2	24.4
Ottawa	361.0	89.1	0.7	88.4	24.5
Saginaw	519.7	99.0	0.3	98.7	19.0
St. Clair	473.6	79.4	0.9	78.5	16.6
St. Joseph	325.1	57.7	0.5	57.2	17.6
Sanilac	615.0	70.4	0.2	70.2	11.4
Shiawassee	345.6	42.5	-	42.5	12.3
Tuscola	522.2	105.7	0.2	105.5	20.2
Van Buren	388.5	100.1	0.5	99.6	25.6
Washtenaw	458.2	84.2	1.1	83.1	18.1
Wayne	388.5	38.2	1.6	36.6	9.4
Total	14,520.3	2,857.1	40.9	2,816.2	19.4
State Total	36,492.1	19,373.4	473.2	18,900.2	51.8

^{1/} 1960 Bureau of the Census.

^{2/} Land at least 10 percent stocked by forest trees of any size, or formerly having such tree cover; excludes lands currently developed for nonforest use such as urban or thickly settled residential or resort areas, city parks, orchards, improved roads, or improved pasture lands.

The minimum area classified as forest land was 1 acre. Roadside, streamside, and shelterbelt strips of timber with crown width of at least 120 feet and all unimproved roads and trails, streams, and clearings in forest areas were classified as forest.

^{3/} Unproductive forest land incapable of yielding crops of industrial wood because of adverse site conditions and productive public forest land withdrawn from commercial timber use through statute or administrative regulation.

^{4/} Forest land producing or capable of producing crops of industrial wood and not withdrawn from timber utilization.

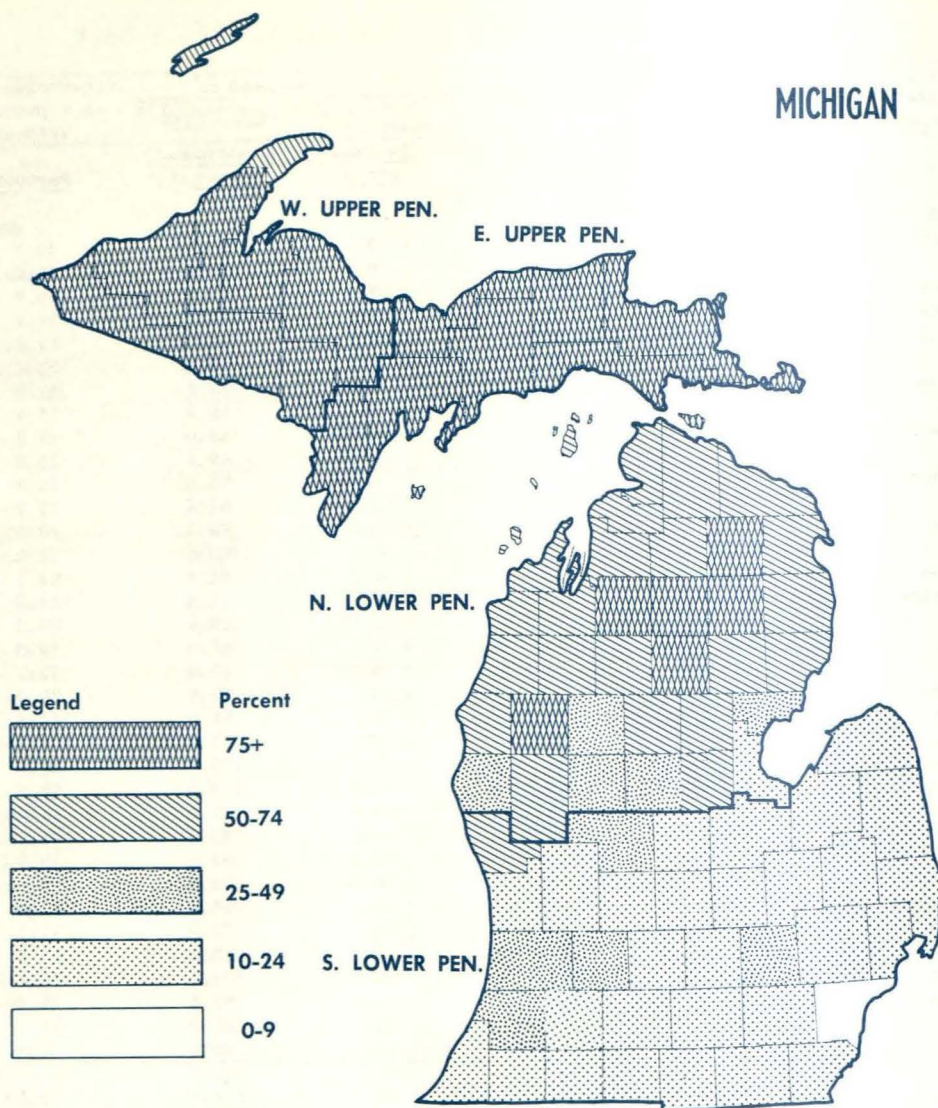


Figure 1.—Commercial forest area as a percent of all land area.

Noncommercial forest land totals 473,000 acres. Of this area, 268,000 acres are reserved, primarily in state parks and Isle Royale National Park. The remaining 205,000 acres is unproductive forest land, found primarily in conifer swamps and bogs in the Upper Peninsula.

The forest area information reported here

is part of the results of the Third Michigan Forest Survey made during 1964-1966 by the North Central Forest Experiment Station and the Michigan Conservation Department. Other publications giving details of Michigan forest areas, timber volumes, and growth and cut are being prepared and will be available in the near future.

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